

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05677 231610Z

55

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EURE-00 /080 W

----- 124149

P R 231405Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4358

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: ECEVIT CRITICIZES GOT AEGEAN POLICY

REF: ANKARA 5589 (DTG 211000Z JUL 76)

1. ON JULY 22, REPLUBICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN
BULENT ECEVIT CRITICIZED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING
OF THE AEGEAN PROBLEM. OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS SOME ANTI-
GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS OF THE TURKISH PRESS HAVE SOUNDED THE
SAME THEME AS WELL AS ATTEMPTING TO PLACE THE BLAME
ON GREECE FOR ANY INCIDENT THAT MIGHTT ARISE IN CONNECTION
WITH THE SAILING OF THE SISMIK.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 05677 231610Z

2. IN PERHAPS HIS MOST CRITICAL AND INTEMPERATE STATEMENT TO DATE, ECEVIT ATTACKED PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL FOR SAYING THAT COUNTRIES OTHER THAN TURKEY AND GREECE HAD THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE IN NON-TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE AEGEAN. ECEVIT SAID DEMIREL HAD "NO RIGHT TO GIVE SUCH CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES." ECEVIT ALSO CRITICIZED DEMIREL FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SEISMIC SURVEYS OF THE AEGEAN AND THE DRILLING OF OIL WELLS IN IT. SAID ECEVIT, DEMIREL "THUS CASTS DOUBT ON OUR RIGHT TO DRILL OIL WELLS IN THE AEGEAN."

3. TO THE RECENT STATEMENT MADE BY DEMIREL IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JULY 21 MILLIYET THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SISMİK SAILING INTO THE AEGEAN AND THE RIGHTS PRESENTLY USED BY THE TURKISH NAVY, MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHING FLEET, ECEVIT RETORTED THAT, "WITH THESE WORDS, THE PRIME MINISTER TREATS THE HORA'S (SISMİK) SAILING INTO THE AEGEAN AS THE SAME AS THAT OF A FISHING BOAT OR A FREIGHTER. ... IT IS AN IMCOMPREHENSIBLE CONTRADICTION TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD JUMP IN THE AIR BY CARRYING OUT MANEUVER AFTER MANEUVER IN THE AEGEAN ON THE EVE OF THE HORA'S SAILING, AND THEN TURN ITS AEGEAN DEPARTURE INTO A FISHING BOAT TRIP. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WITH MR. DEMIREL'S LATEST STATEMENTS, THE HORA'S SAILING INTO THE AEGEAN HAS LOST ALL MEANING. UNDER THE CONDITIONS, WE CAN EVEN EXPECT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO SEND FLOWERS TO THE HORA."

4. ACCORDING TO JULY 23 CUMHURİYET, THE MFA INFORMATION OFFICE LABELLED TH ECEVIT STATEMENTS AS "IRRESPONSIBLE".

5. EDITORIAL REACTION OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS PRIMARILY EMPHASIZED TWO THEMES, IN ESSENCE: (1) THE GREEKS ARE OVER-REACTING TO THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK AND ARE TRYING TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF A SMALL, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHIP WHICH HAS A RIGHT TO SAIL AND EXPLORE IN THE AEGEAN, AND (2) ONLY THE MISMANAGEMENT OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE LED TO A SITUATION IN WHICH THE GREEKS ARE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT WAR OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF A TURKISH SEISMIC SHIP TWO YEARS AFTER TURKEY HAD ESTABLISHED ITS RIGHT TO EXPLORE THE AEGEAN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THEN PRIMIN ECEVIT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 05677 231610Z

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PAPERS ARE FILLED WITH NEWS AND SPECULATION CONCERNING THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK, WE ARE STRUCK BY THE "CERTAINTY" IN THE MINDS OF ALMOST ALL TURKS WE HAVE TALKED WITH IN RECENT DAYS THAT THE GREEKS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT MILITARILY CHALLENGE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMİK. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ON MANY OCCASIONS BY TURKS BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE, THAT THE GREEKS "ALWAYS MAKE A GREAT NOISE ABOUT WHAT WE DO, BUT NEVER ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING

ABOUT IT."
MACOMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLICIES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, PARTY LEADERS, SEISMIC PROSPECTING, AEGEAN, SISMIK I
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA05677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0518
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760730/aaaaaztw.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 5589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT CRITICIZES GOT AEGEAN POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006